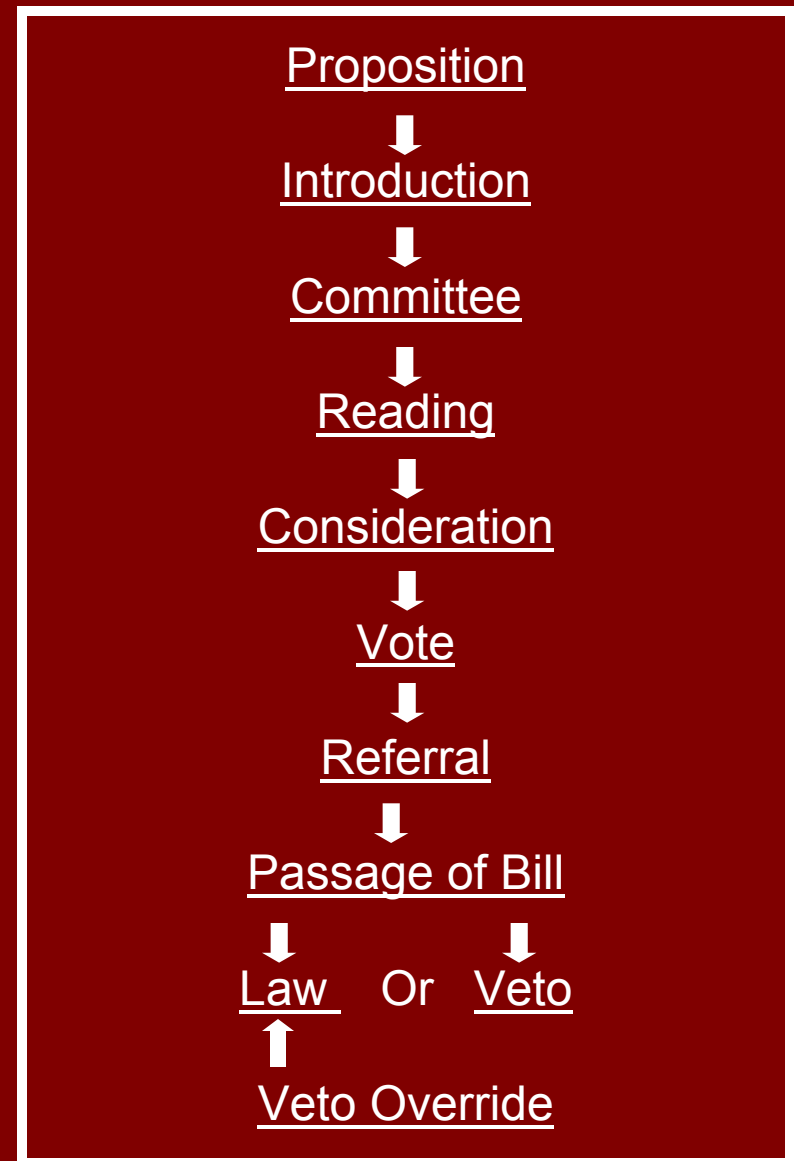


How do we get
from here....

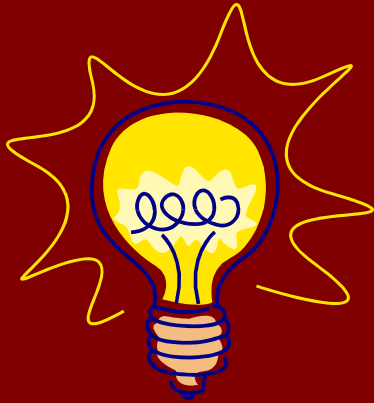


To here?

How does a bill
become a law
in the Indiana
General
Assembly?



FIRST: A legislator – either a Representative or a Senator – decides to sponsor a bill.



Ideas for bills can come from the Governor, a public official, an interest group, or from a constituent- **YOU!**

Legislators usually sponsor bills that are **important** to their constituents.

Two legislators can work together, or **co-sponsor** a bill.

INTRODUCTION

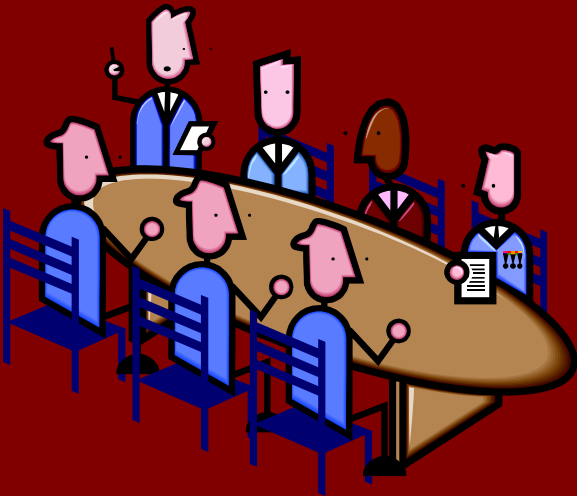


After a bill is written, the **sponsor** files it in his/her own chamber of the General Assembly, either the Senate or the House of Representatives.

The chamber leadership decides whether to let the bill “die”, or whether to call the bill for its **First Reading** to the full legislative body.

COMMITTEES

After the First Reading, the leaders of each house (the President Pro Tempore of the Senate or the Speaker of the House of Representatives) can choose whether to let the bill “die” or whether to refer it to a committee to look over.



A committee often schedules a public hearing to discuss the bill. After the hearing, the committee can “table” the bill, putting it aside to discuss more in the future, or vote on it.

READING

If the bill passes, the committee sends it back to the original house of origin for a **Second Reading**.



The bill is printed and legislators have at least two days to **review** it.

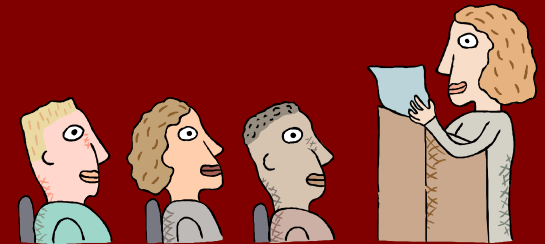
Chamber leadership can let the bill “die”, or it can schedule it for a Second Reading.

CONSIDERATION

During the Second Reading, any legislator can suggest **amendments** (changes) to the bill, that must be approved through a vote.

Next, a vote is held on the bill itself, where it can either “die” or advance.

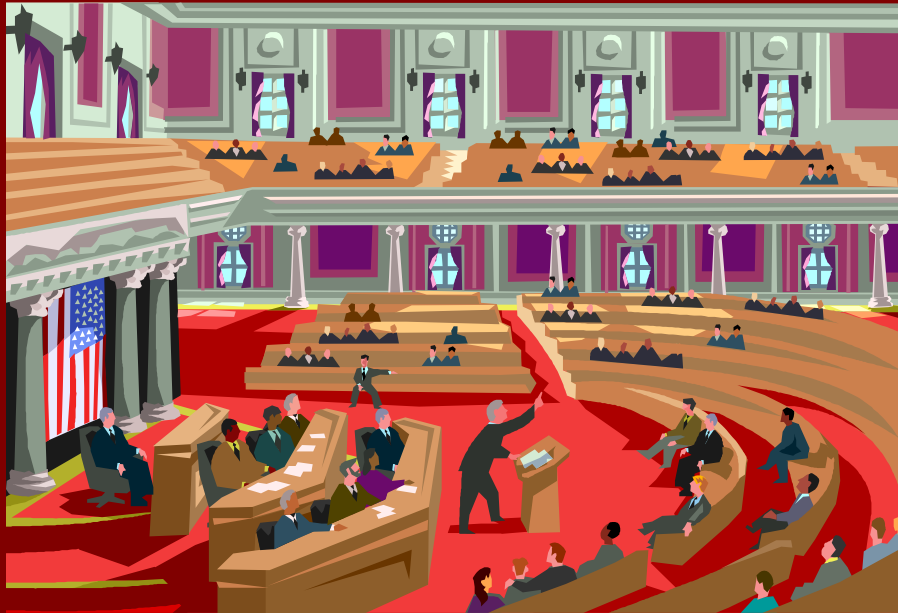
If it advances, the Chamber leadership can either let it “die” or schedule a **Third Reading**.



Legislators can **debate and amend** the bill again.

Another vote is held and the majority decides whether the bill advances or “dies.”

REFERRAL



If the bill passes, it is referred to the other house where the entire process is **repeated**.

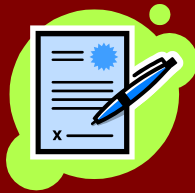
PASSAGE OF BILL

If the other house adds amendments to the bill, it must **return** to the house of origin for another vote.

If the bill is passed by the other house without changes, it is sent to the **Governor**.

The Governor can:

Sign It



Veto It



Do Nothing



OVERRIDING A VETO

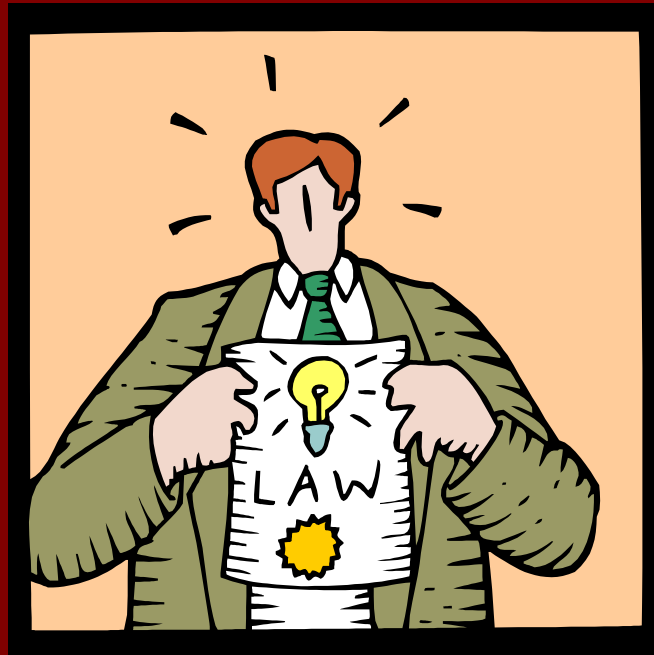
When a Governor vetoes a bill, it can still become a law.

The House and the Senate can decide to **override** the veto.

This means that if at least 51 representatives and 26 senators vote to override the Governor's decision, **the bill passes**.



A BILL BECOMES A LAW



If the Governor signs the bill, or if the General Assembly overrides a veto by the governor, the bill becomes a law.